

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 14, 2006, the Examiner (1) rejected claims 1-3, 5, 10-12, 17-18, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hill (U.S. 4,762,304); and (2) rejected claims 1-5, 8-10, 17-19, 22-23, and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lonon (U.S. 5,085,407). The Examiner acknowledged, however, that claims 6-7, 13-16, 20-21, 24, and 27 would be allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of their respective base and intermediate claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 16 which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable. Claim 16 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 1 is in condition for allowance, as are claims 2-15 which depend from claim 1.

Claim 17 has been amended to include the limitations of original claim 24 which the Examiner acknowledged as being allowable. Claim 24 has been canceled. Therefore, claim 17 is in condition for allowance, as are claims 18-23 and 25-27 which depend from claim 17.

New claim 28 has been added which recites the limitations of original claim 6 and original claim 7, which were acknowledged as being allowable. Therefore, claim 28 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 29 has been added which recites the limitations of original claim 13 which was acknowledged as being allowable. Therefore, claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 30 has been added which recites the limitations of original claim 15 which was acknowledged as being allowable. Therefore, claim 30 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 31 has been added which recites the limitations of original claim 20 and original claim 21, which were acknowledged as being allowable. Therefore, claim 31 is in condition for allowance.

New claim 32 has been added which recites the limitations of original claim 27 which was acknowledged as being allowable. Therefore, claim 32 is in condition for allowance.

II. New Claims 33-35

New claim 33 recites:

33. An apparatus for moveably supporting a workpiece above a support surface, comprising:

- a primary support configured to engage the support surface;
- a secondary support moveably coupled to the primary support, the secondary support including a cradle member configured to engage the workpiece, *wherein the cradle portion includes:*

- a first laterally-extending receiving member,
- a first side member coupled to the first receiving member and projecting upwardly therefrom,
- a second side member coupled to the first receiving member and projecting downwardly therefrom,
- a second laterally-extending receiving member coupled to the second side member, *the second receiving member being approximately planar*, and
- a third side member coupled to the second receiving member and projecting upwardly therefrom, the first receiving member and the first side member defining a first receiving area and the second receiving member, and the second and third side members defining a second receiving area;

- a drive assembly operatively coupled to the secondary support and configured to move the secondary support relative to the primary support in at least one of a first direction away from the support surface and in a second direction toward the support surface; and

- a control device remotely positionable with respect to the drive assembly and operatively coupled to the drive assembly, the control device being configured to transmit at least one of a first control signal to the drive assembly to move the secondary support in the first direction and a second control signal to the drive assembly to move the secondary support in the second direction. (emphasis added).

Hill (U.S. 4,762,304)

Hill teaches a fluid operated door opener that includes first and second actuating cylinders 51, 52, a pack 55 coupled to the cylinders 51, 52 that provides a pressurized fluid to actuate the cylinders 51, 52, and a pressure spreading plate 54. (4:57-60; 4:48-51). The door opener is used to force a door inwardly with respect to the surrounding structure until the hinges or lock of the door fail and the door falls inwardly into the structure. (3:38-53).

Lonon (U.S. 5,085,407)

Lonon teaches a jack 22 having a base 22p coupled to a lift shaft 22j. (7:47-56). A saddle-shaped metal seat 22e is coupled to the lift shaft 22j. (7:67-68). As best shown in Figure 18, an attachment 22f is coupled to the metal seat 22e and is configured to engage an automobile bumper. (8:5-11).

Hill and Lonon do not disclose, teach, or fairly suggest the apparatus recited in claim 30. More specifically, Hill and Lonon do not teach or suggest an apparatus having “a secondary support moveably coupled to the primary support, the secondary support including a cradle member configured to engage the workpiece, *wherein the cradle portion includes:*

- a first laterally-extending receiving member,
- a first side member coupled to the first receiving member and projecting upwardly therefrom,
- a second side member coupled to the first receiving member and projecting downwardly therefrom,
- a second laterally-extending receiving member coupled to the second side member, *the second receiving member being approximately planar*, and

a third side member coupled to the second receiving member and projecting upwardly therefrom, the first receiving member and the first side member defining a first receiving area and the second receiving member, and the second and third side members defining a second receiving area[.]

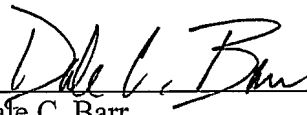
The pressure plate 54 (or the element 21) of Hill is simply a flat plate, and the metal seat 22e and attachment 22f of Lonon form a continuously-curved portion that engages an automobile bumper. Neither Hill or Lonon teaches or fairly suggests the cradle portion having first and second laterally-extending receiving members, and first, second, and third side members coupled to the laterally-extending receiving members, as recited in claim 33. Claim 33 is therefore allowable over Hill and Lonon. Claims 34 and 35 depend from claim 33 and are allowable over the cited references at least due to their dependencies on claim 33, and also due to additional limitations recited in those claims. Accordingly, claims 33-35 are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-15, 17-23, and 25-35 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: Dec. 14, 2006

By: 
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